

Page 5, line 26, after "guide pin 14" insert --without the use of tools--

Page 6. line 7, change ", 5 , and 6" to --and 5.--

Page 6, lines 9-10, delete "In Fig 4 the vertical ... rather than flat."


Page 6. line 10, change "Fig 5" to --Fig 4--

Page 6. line 10, change "Fig 6" to --Fig 5--

Page 8, lines 10-11, delete "the uprights can have ... curved, etc.;"

Claims: Cancel all claims of record and substitute new claims 19 to 46 as follows:

19. A support stand comprising

- 
- a. a ground engaging flat base of predetermined shape and thickness,
 - b. a plurality of slotted vertical support members communicating with said ground engaging flat base, with their upright portions having flat planar surfaces to communicate with the surface of a flat plane display item and being of sufficient height to hold a flat plane display item in a vertical position without tipping over,
 - c. a means of slidably connecting said vertical support members to said ground engaging flat base,
 - d. a means of slidably adjusting the location of said vertical support members on said base, relative to one another, such that the distance between said vertical support members is infinitely variable from complete closure to the maximum possible distance, and,
 - e. a means of affixing said vertical support members in a given location on said ground-engaging flat base, without the use of tools, and without removing said ground engaging flat base from the ground, such that a desired aperture is thereby created between said vertical support members, whereby a flat plane display item can

be placed into the aperture created between the vertical support members, such that the display item stands perpendicularly to the ground engaging flat base, without being held in place by pressure or friction which could damage the display item.

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20. The support stand of claim 19 wherein said ground engaging flat base has an elongated rectangular shape.
 21. The support stand of claim 19 wherein said ground engaging flat base is made of metal.
 22. The support stand of claim 21 wherein said ground engaging flat base is made of metal and coated with a rust-resistant plating material.
 23. The support stand of claim 19 wherein said slotted vertical support members with flat planar surfaces have an L-shape.
 24. The support stand of claim 23 wherein said slotted vertical support members with flat planar surfaces having an L-shape shall communicate with said ground engaging flat base along the flat bottom portion of that L-shape.
 25. The support stand of claim 24 wherein said slotted vertical support members with flat planar surfaces having an L-shape shall have a guide slot in the flat bottom portion of the L-shape.
 26. The support stand of claim 25 wherein said ground engaging flat base shall have one or more fixed guide pins, such that said guide slot in said vertical support member may be placed over said fixed guide pins, enabling said adjustable vertical support member to slide across a predetermined area on said ground engaging flat base.

27. The support stand of claim 26 wherein at least one of said fixed guide pins is threaded.

a 28. The support stand of claim 27 wherein each said threaded fixed guide pin is threadedly mated with an oppositely threaded tri-spoked or fluted manual adjusting knob that may be tightened down on said fixed threaded guide pin compressing the flat bottom portion of said L-shaped vertical support member with flat planar surfaces against said ground engaging flat base, such that said L-shaped vertical support member with flat planar surfaces will be fixed in a specific location on said ground engaging flat base without the use of tools, without inverting the support stand, and without removing the item being held.

29. The support stand of claim 19 wherein one or more vertical support members with flat planar surfaces are permanently fixed in a predetermined location on said ground engaging flat base.

30. The support stand of claim 29 in which one or more vertical support members with flat planar surfaces are permanently fixed wherein additional non-fixed L-shaped vertical support members with flat planar surfaces may be temporarily fixed in a location on said ground engaging flat base selected by the user.

31. The support stand of claim 30 wherein the fixed and non-fixed L-shaped vertical support members with flat planar surfaces are made of metal.

32. The support stand of claim 31 wherein said fixed and non-fixed L-shaped vertical support members with flat planar surfaces made of metal are coated with a rust resistant plating material.

33. A support stand comprising

- a. a flat ground engaging base of predetermined shape and thickness, and having wheels for mobility,
- b. a plurality of slotted vertical support members communicating with said flat ground engaging base, with their upright portions having flat planar surfaces to communicate with the surface of a flat plane display item and being of sufficient height to hold a flat plane display item in a vertical position without tipping over,
- c. a means of slidably connecting said vertical support members to said ground-engaging base,
- d. a means of slidably adjusting the location of said vertical support members on said base, relative to one another, such that the distance between said vertical support members is infinitely variable from complete closure to the maximum possible distance, and,
- e. a means of affixing said vertical support members in a given location on said ground engaging flat base, without the use of tools, and without removing said ground engaging flat base from the ground, such that a desired aperture is thereby created between said vertical support members, whereby a flat plane display item can be placed into the aperture created between the vertical support members, such that the display item stands perpendicularly to the ground engaging flat base, without being held in place by pressure or friction which could damage the display item.

34. The support stand of claim 33 wherein said ground engaging flat base has an elongated rectangular shape.

35. The support stand of claim 33 wherein said ground engaging flat base is made of metal.

36. The support stand of claim 35 wherein said ground engaging flat base is made of metal and coated with a rust-resistant plating material.

37. The support stand of claim 33 wherein said slotted vertical support members with flat planar surfaces have an L-shape.

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38. The support stand of claim 37 wherein said slotted vertical support members with flat planar surfaces having an L-shape shall communicate with said ground engaging flat base along the flat bottom portion of that L-shape.

39. The support stand of claim 38 wherein said slotted vertical support members with flat planar surfaces having an L-shape shall have a guide slot in the flat bottom portion of the L-shape.

40. The support stand of claim 39 wherein said ground engaging flat base shall have one or more fixed guide pins, such that said guide slot in said vertical support member may be placed over said fixed guide pins, enabling said adjustable vertical support member to slide across a predetermined area on said ground engaging flat base.

41. The support stand of claim 40 wherein at least one of said fixed guide pins is threaded.

42. The support stand of claim 41 wherein each said threaded fixed guide pin is threadedly mated with an oppositely threaded tri-spoked or fluted manual adjusting knob that may be tightened down on said fixed threaded guide pin compressing the flat bottom portion of said L-shaped vertical support member with flat planar surfaces against said ground engaging flat base, such that said L-shaped vertical support member with flat planar surfaces will be fixed in a specific location on said ground engaging flat base without the use of tools, without inverting the support stand, and without removing the item being held.